

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-15 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maul et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,838). Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Maul in view of Shirk et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of the Final Office Action state that the Figures 1B-1C of Maul and the Shirk reference either anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's claims. The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 15, which include the limitations that the cushion and inflator assembly are assembled into a cover of the air bag module. Figures 1B-1C depict the cushion being inserted into a module housing (4) as opposed to a cover as claimed. Applicant notes that the Maul reference discloses solid covers (24) which would not facilitate the movement of the piston (10) as shown in Figures 1A-1C.

Further, the Examiner's attention is directed to amendments to the independent claims which have been amended to better define the invention. In this regard, the claims have been amended to include the limitation that the piston has an exterior periphery which corresponds to the interior periphery of the housing cavity. As each

Serial No. 09/766,790

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and every limitation is not contained in the Maul reference, Applicant asserts that rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) are improper.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (810) 726-3905.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 09/766,790